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Letter dated 20 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the Krem'in's decree on the recognition of so-called documents issued on the territories of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 20 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the Kremlin's decree on the recognition of so-called documents issued on the territories of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions

Ukraine strongly condemns and does not recognize the Kremlin's decree on the recognition of so-called documents issued on the territories of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.

The Kremlin's decree constitutes de facto recognition of the Russia-controlled illegal authorities on the occupied Ukrainian territories of Donbas.

The Russian side has yet again violated the State sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and the international commitments of Russia, as well as the core idea and principles of the Minsk agreements.

We call on our international partners to step up the pressure on Russia so that it unequivocally implements the Minsk agreements and returns to the international legal framework.